

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original) A computer system for facilitating a sale of an item between one or more sellers and one or more potential buyers, comprising:

a memory storing data received from each seller identifying one or a plurality of items to be offered for sale; and

a processor operatively connected to the memory, the processor programmed to:

- (a) establish an available purse designating a maximum amount of funds made available by each potential buyer;
- (b) communicate to each potential buyer the offer for sale of each item and a predetermined portion of the data as established by each seller pertaining to the items offered for sale;
- (c) receive purchase offers from each potential buyer, each purchase offer having an item and purchase price associated therewith, wherein each purchase price may not exceed the balance of the corresponding available purse, but wherein an aggregate of all pending purchase offers by each potential buyer may substantially exceed the amount of funds available to the corresponding potential buyer;
- (d) communicate the pending purchase offers to each corresponding seller;

- (e) receive an acceptance of a purchase offer from a seller;
- (f) immediately after step (e) calculate a new balance of each available purse by deducting from the available purse the purchase price associated with the offer; and
- (g) withdraw any of corresponding potential buyer's other pending purchase offers for which the associated purchase price exceeds the amount of the new balance.

Claim 6 (original) Using a central computer system, a method for facilitating a sale of an item between a seller and a buyer through PHANTOM BIDDING comprising the steps of:

- A. receiving information from at least one seller pertaining to one or a plurality of items to be offered for sale;
- B. establishing a spending limit for the buyer which designates a maximum amount of funds available to the buyer;
- C. receiving a plurality of purchase offers from the buyer, each purchase offer having an item and purchase price associated therewith, wherein each purchase price may not exceed the balance of the spending limit, but wherein an aggregate of the total price of all pending purchase offers by the buyer may substantially exceed the amount of funds available to the buyer;
- D. communicating the pending purchase offers to each seller;
- E. receiving an acceptance of a purchase offer from a seller;
- F. immediately withdrawing any of the buyer's other pending purchase

offers.

Claim 7 (original) The method as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

G. calculating a new balance for the buyer's spending limit by deducting from the spending limit the purchase price associated with the offer immediately after step E;

in step F, withdrawing other of the buyer's pending purchase offers only for which the associated purchase price offered by the buyer exceeds the amount of the new balance.

Claims 8 - 9 (withdrawn)

Claims 10-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (new): A device for facilitating a sale of an item between one or more sellers and one or more potential buyers by approved remote access to said device, said device comprising:

a memory storing data received from at least one seller identifying one or a plurality of items to be offered for sale by a corresponding seller; and

a processor operatively connected to the memory, the processor programmed to:

- (a) establish a spending limit for each potential buyer;
- (b) communicate to each potential buyer, as designated by each seller, at least a portion of the data pertaining to the corresponding items to be offered for sale;
- (c) receive purchase offers from each potential buyer, each purchase offer having an item and purchase price associated therewith, wherein each purchase price may be for an amount less than or

equal to the corresponding spending limit, collectively, the plurality of purchase offers totaling a multiple of the spending limit;

- (d) communicate the pending purchase offers to each corresponding seller;
- (e) receive an acceptance of a purchase offer from a seller;
- (f) calculate a new balance for the buyer's spending limit by deducting from the spending limit the purchase price associated with the offer;
- (g) withdraw buyer's other pending purchase offers which individually exceed the amount of the new balance.